

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11220 01 OF 02 180306Z

72 (51)
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 DRC-01 /178 W
----- 119304

R 171445Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 11220

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT UR
SUBJECT: INTERNAL HIGHLIGHTS--'26-AUGUST

1. BREZHNEV CULT. THE TWO MONTHS FOLLOWING GENERAL SECRETARY
BREZHNEV'S FORAY INTO THE HEARTLAND OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD SAW
INCREASED PUBLIC ATTENTION TO HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSON. ALTHOUGH
A FULL-FLEDGED CULT OF PERSONALITY HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED AROUND

BREZHNEV, HE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE ASCENDANCY WHICH RECEIVED
A CONSIDERABL BOOST AT THE APRIL CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM.

2. HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE TAKEN VARYING POSITIONS TOWARDS BREZHNEV'S
INCREASED STATURE. ON THE ONE HAND, SHCHERBITSKIY, KUNAYEV,
SOLOMENTSEV AND MASHEROV, DURING MAJOR ADDRESSES, VOICED PRAISE
FOR BREZHNEV'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE EXECUTION OF NATIONAL POLICY.
SUSLOV,
MAZUROV AND SHELEPIN HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED
IN THEIR TREATMENT OF BREZHNEV, EMPHASIZING THE CONTINUING COL-
LECTIVE NATURE OF LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11220 01 OF 02 180306Z

3. IN A N APPARENT EFFORT TO BOLSTER HIS DOMESTIC IMAGE,
BREZHNEV TRAVELLED TO THE UKRAINE, KAZAKHSTAN AND SARATOV

OBLAST TO DELIVER MAJOR ADDRESSES. HIS TRAVELS TO KIEV AND ALMA ATA TOOK HIM INTO PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TERRITORY SINCE THE FIRST SECRETARIES OF THESE TWO REPUBLICS ARE AMONG HIS STRONGEST SUPPORTERS ON THE POLITBURO. JUDGING FROM PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND TV COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED. LARGELY AS A RESULT OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES.

4. POLYANSKIY'S UPS AND DOWNS. RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN A SOMEWHAT INCREASED ROLE FOR POLYANSKIY, BUT SOME STORM SIGNALS STILL REMAIN ON THE HORIZON FOR HIM.

5. FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE CENTRAL PRESS TO MENTION POLYANSKIY'S TRAVELS TO THE BALTIC STATES AND BELORUSSIA IN LATE MAY/EARLY JUNE, HE HAS LATELY BEGUN TO RECEIVE MORE PUBLIC ATTENTION. POLYANSKIY LED THE SOVIET DELEGATION AT THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN MOSCOW, A ROLE WHICH NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED BY MAZUROV, WHO WAS IN MOSCOW THAT DAY. ON AUGUST 24, POLYANSKIY RECEIVED HIS FIRST AMERICAN VISITOR SINCE OCCUPYING HIS NEW POSITION, THE PRESIDENT OF AN AMERICAN SEED COMPANY. THE MEETING WAS REPORTED IN BOTH CENTRAL AND REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPERS. THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED THAT POLYANSKIY SERVE AS THE SOVIET CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE. POLYANSKIY WAS ALSO LISTED AS PARTICIPATING IN A JOINT MEETING OF THE COLLEGIUMS OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTRY OF LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER ECONOMY, WHICH DISCUSSED A CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION CRITIZING THE LATTER MINISTRY.

6. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE LEDGER IS THE FACT THAT POLYANSKIY'S MINISTRY CAME IN FOR CRITICISM IN TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN THE CENTRAL PRESS. ON AUGUST 28, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WAS AMONG SEVERAL MINISTRIES CRITICIZED IN A PUBLISHED CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FOR SHORTCOMINGS IN THE CONSUMER WELFARE SECTOR. THE PREVIOUS DAY A PRAVDA LEADER CONTAINED CRITICISM OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOR POOR LABOR DISCIPLINE IN SOME OF ITS ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE CRITICISM OF MINIS-
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11220 01 OF 02 180306Z

TRIES IS NOT UNUSUAL, IT DOES TAKE ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE WHEN IT INVOLVED A MINISTRY LED BY A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO.

7. CADRE PROBLEMS. JUDGING FROM CENTRAL AND REPUBLICAN PRESS REPORTS, AT LEAST THREE REPUBLICS, THE UKRAINE, TURKMENISTAN AND GEORGIA, ARE EXPERIENCING CADRE DIFFICULTIES. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IN EACH REPUBLIC SEEMS TO BE STRIVING TO CORRECT THE SITUATION, AND PERSONNEL SHIFTS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THESE AREAS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

8. GEORGIAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY SHEVARNADZE, WHO IS NOW COMPLETING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, MADE TWO UNUSUALLY FRANK SPEECHES TO A PARTY PLENUM IN LATE JULY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS OPPOSITION TO HIS EFFORTS TO EFFECT AN OVERALL REFORM OF THE LEADERSHIP OF ALL SECTORS OF THE REPUBLIC. HIS BLUNT EXPOSITION OF THE SITUATION INDICATES THAT SHEVARNADZE INTENDS TO PUSH FORWARD WITH THE MANDATE HE RECEIVED FROM MOSCOW LAST YEAR TO CLEAN UP GEORGIA.

9. WRITING IN PRAVDA AUGUST 31, UKRAINIAN FIRST SECRETARY SCHERBITSKIY DETAILED EFFORTS BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PARTY CADRES IN THE REPUBLIC. SCHERBITSKIY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PARTY LEADERS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR JOBS IN ODESSA, KHERSON AND CHERNOVITS OBLASTS FOR SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS, AND INDICATED THAT SIMILAR MEASURES WOULD BE IN STORE FOR OTHER OFFICIALS WHO FAIL TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11220 02 OF 02 171549Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 DRC-01 /178 W

----- 114056

R 171445Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2105

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 11220

10. BREZHNEV'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UKRAINE PROBABLY WAS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN SHCHERBITSKIY'S HAND IN DEALING WITH CADRE PROBLEMS. BREZHNEV ALLUDED TO THESE PROBLEMS BY NOTING THAT IT IS WRONG TO CHANGE OFFICIALS TOO FREQUENTLY; ON THE OTHER HAND, HE OBSERVED IT IS WORSE TO ALLOW INCOM-

PETENT INDIVIDUALS TO REMAIN IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF OLD SHELEST CRONIES WHO ARE STILL IN PLACE IN THE UKRAINE WILL BE IN VULNERABLE POSITIONS IN COMING MONTHS.

11. FINALLY, TURKMENISTAN IS ALSO EXPERIENCING CADRE DIFFICULTIES, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA AUGUST 24 BY THE REPUBLIC FIRST SECRETARY GAPUROV. GAPUROV ENUMERATED THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO DEVELOPE CADRES IN TURKMENISTAN AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S BUREAU AND THE HEAD OF THE REPUBLIC'S TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE RECENTLY AND EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY.

12. JEWISH EMIGRATION. AFTER SHOWING SLIGHT DIPS IN JUNE AND JULY OVER PREVIOUS MONTHS. JEWISH EMIGRATION CLIMBED SHARPLY IN AUGUST, EXCEEDING 3,000 INDIVIDUAL CASES. IF THE PRESENT RATE CONTINUES, THE FINAL FIGURE FOR 1973
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11220 02 OF 02 171549Z

SHOULD REACH OR EXCEED THE TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 31,000 WHICH WAS ACHIEVED LAST YEAR.

13. WHILE THERE ARE SOME REPORTSS OF INCREASED APPLICATIONS FOR AND GRANTING OF EXIT VISAS IN LARGE CITIES SUCH AS MOSCOW, THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE SO-CALLED "HARD CORE" REFUSLA CASES. HOWEVER, RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING THAT MANY OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING RECONSIDERED AND THAT MANY WILL BE FAVORABLY RESOLVED IN THE COMING MONTHS AS A SOVIET GESTURE TO WARD OFF US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE JACKSON AMENDMENT.

14. MEANWHILE, THERE HAS BEEN AN UPSURGE IN THE PRESS OF ARTICLES DESCRIBING THE ALLEGED DIFFICULT PLIGHT OF FORMER SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS EFFORT IS REDUCING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SEEKING PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL.

15. AUTHORITIES VERSUS DISSIDENTS. INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO STAMP OUT THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN THE USSR. THE STAGED TRIAL OF DISSIDENTS YAKIR AND KRASIN APPARENTLY WAS INTENDED AS AN ANTI-CLIMACTIC FINALE IN THE REGIME'S CURRENT STRUGGLE WITH THE DISSIDENTS. HOWEVER, THE ACTIVITIES OF NUCLEAR PHYSICIST SAKHAROV AND AUTHOR SOLZHENITSYN SUCCEEDED IN FOCUSING WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION ON THE ENTIRE QUEFMION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. COMING AS IT DOES ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING OF THE SECOND-STAGE OF CSCE, THE SAKHAROV

AFFAIR CAUGHT THE REGIME IN THE DILEMMA OF DETERMINING
WHETHER INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE
SERVED FIRST.

16. IDEOLOGICAL FRONT. THE PARTY APPARATUS IS TAKING
STEPS TO CARRY OUT THE CALL OF THE APRIL CC PLENUM FOR
INCREASED IDEOLOGICAL WORK WITH THE MASSES. THE CURRENT
CAMPAIGN RECEIVED SOME IMPETUS FROM REMARKS MADE BY
BREZHNEV DURING THE CEREMONY AWARDING THE LENIN PEACE
PRIZE IN JULY. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, CHIEF PARTY IDEOLOGIST
SUSLOV, IN A MAJOR SPEECH, STRESSED THE NEED FOR IMPROVED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11220 02 OF 02 171549Z

WORK IN THIS SECTOR, A THEME PICKED UP IN ADDITIONAL
SENIOR LEVEL SPEECHES AND IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA.
DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW11220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DUBS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaavxm.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL HIGHLIGHTS--'26-AUGUST
TAGS: PINT, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005